

October 15

# Global Hand washing Day

## Celebration at North Showa Zone

### Report

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#### Preamble

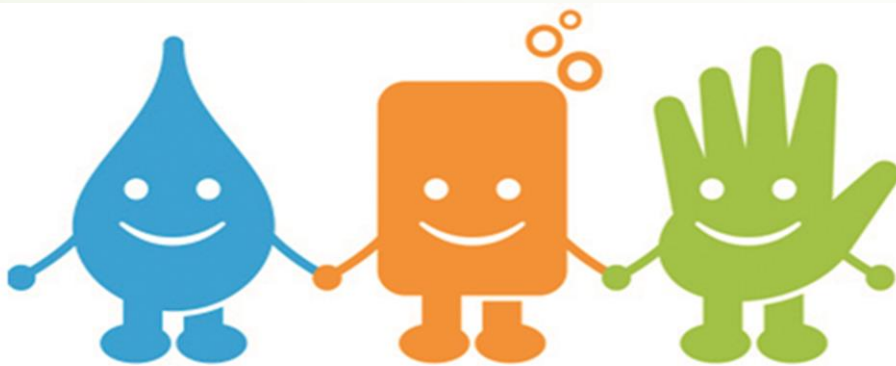
October 15 is Global Hand washing Day, a global advocacy day dedicated to increasing awareness and understanding about the importance of hand washing with soap as an effective and affordable way to prevent diseases. Global Hand washing Day is an opportunity to design, test, and replicate creative ways to encourage people to wash their hands with soap at critical times.

#### Why hand washing is important?

Every year, 1.7 million children do not live to celebrate their fifth birthday because of diarrhea and pneumonia. Hand washing with soap is among the most effective and inexpensive ways to prevent diarrheal diseases and pneumonia. This simple behavior can save lives, cutting deaths from diarrhea by almost one-half and deaths from acute respiratory infections by nearly one-quarter.

Hand washing with soap can make a significant contribution to meeting the Millennium Development Goal of reducing deaths among children under the age of five by two-thirds by 2015.

**Source:** Global Hand washing planner's guide, Third edition, September 2014. Prepared by FHI 360.



# Global Hand washing Day Celebration at Yaya - Gulilie Wereda, Nano Chemeri primary schools

## Summary

### Global Hand washing celebration at Nano Chemeri primary school

In order to support the global hand washing initiative and also as part of ENGINE project component activities, the global hand washing day was colorfully celebrated at Nanao chemeri primary school, Yaya Gulellie wereda, which is one of the WsSH intervention woredas that are targeted among other weredas in North Showa Zone, Oromiya region

The event is aimed at to increasing the awareness and understanding of teachers, students and local community members about the importance of hand washing with soap as an effective and affordable way to prevent diseases.

A total of 460 people (234 Male and 226 Female) from government sector offices, schools (students / teachers), elders, parents and ENGINE beneficiaries actively took part. Students, teachers and health professionals presented various educational sessions and practical demonstrations on topics related to the significance of hand washing with soap.

The event arranged partnership with USAID's ENGINE project and government sector offices included Zone and Woreda health offices, Woreda Education and Agriculture offices and enthusiastic teachers and students at the Nanao Chemeri primary school.

A variety of educational sessions were presented which included updates on current Ethiopian hygiene and sanitation situations and the negative impact of improper hand washing practices on children, songs, drama performances, poems, practical demonstrations of proper hand washing with soap, water filtration process and how to make a tip – tap to use after using latrines at household levels as well as other pertinent out-of-doors games that underpin the significance of hand washing with soap.

All participants were given insight about the most critical time to wash their hands with soap and also acquired new skills on how to carry out proper hand washing with soap and prevent easily communicable diseases such as diarrheal diseases and pneumonia.

In general, the event was successful and objectives were adequately met. All participants seemed genuinely grateful for the shared knowledge and demonstrations. Moreover, government partners who were in attendance all pledged to provide comprehensive assistance and support to ENGINE's efforts to promote WaSH and even vowed to carry on putting WaSH on their agenda after the completion of the project.

## Global Hand washing Day celebration Agenda

1. Elders' praying
2. Opening by Sister Zewditu Areda
3. Briefing/update on the importance of Hand washing with soap by Zerihune Degebassa
4. Song and cultural dance by group of students
5. Drama by students
6. How to properly wash our hands with soap / practical session.
7. Demonstration on water filtration process by Zerihune Degebassa
  - Proper hand washing contest
  - How to make tip tap
8. Closing by Tesfay Gudissa head of wereda health office.





## I. Opening

The celebrations were opened by elder's prayer for the success of the event. The event was formally launched by Sister Zewditu Areda head of the Zone Health Department of North Showa. During her speech she pointed out that hand washing with soap is a very simple and cheap method that can prevent disease causing organisms which can threaten our lives and the lives of our children.



She also said due emphasis and work should be carried out on dissemination of awareness and changing behavioral practices among school children and family in order to save lives. Beside of this she appreciated the organizes of this occasion and also the sofar efforts made by save the children for assisting to be carried out such important forums for children as well as community members. Moreover she also acknowledged other similar support delivered by save the children and stand a side of zonal health sector offices especially to the improvement of maternal and child health endeavor.

Finally she remind that " promoting hand washing with soap shouldn't be a one time activities that recalled once a year merely by 15 October, while it have to give due emphasis and considered as one of our foremost responsibility and have to carry out along side of our daily routine activities .Otherwise we couldn't be achieved an intended MDGs that we had promised to achieving the current child mortality rates being to reduce by 2015.

Then many other crucial learning sessions would be presented step by step as explain her under as follow.



*Sister Zewditu Areda Head of Zonal health Department of North Showa Zone. During opening of Global hand washing day celebration held at Nano chemeri primary school, Yaya – Gulellie wereda 15 October 2014..*



**Zerihune Degebassa, wereda  
Health office 15 / 10 /2014.**

## **2. Update about importance of Hand washing with soap.**

At completion of opening remark, it has been followed Mohammed's updates on the importance of hand washing with soap and related topics to a crowd. During his explanation he asked why we are celebrating a hand washing day by October 15 every year. And he gave a longer brief on this by Saied "in our country, Ethiopia, millions of children died due to lack of clear understanding among a huge number of people (95 % of population) regarding the ways in which children can be able to infect by germs and bacterial and the way how to prevent these bacteria and germs. Moreover, majority of population don't have accesses to hygiene and sanitation facilities. As a result millions of children and adults could be exposed to various germs and bacteria and threatened the lives of millions of children being easily manageable diseases. Hence, among the very many of preventive methods, hand washing with soap regularly could be one of the simplest, effective and inexpensive ways of preventing such diarrheal and other pneumonia diseases that we have to practices in our daily life. That is why we commemorate every year as hand washing day October 15.

He gave a briefing on impact of human faces that in a gram of human faces can contain more than ten millions of viruses and bacteria which can't be detected by our necked eyes while extremely affected our lives. Therefore an initial step that can be done to prevent all these harmful germs from children and ourselves is at all time by making clean our hands through washing our hands every time with soap after using toilets, before eating our meals. In addition he demonstrated a critical time that should be washing our hands with soap through well designed poster. Some participants have been raised question and appropriate answer given to all questions

## **3. Song and cultural dance by group of students**

This session has presented by group students who trained in advance by their teacher properly. They have been presented inspirational songs and cultural dances (chef era) to audiences. The song would be underlined on the significance of hand washing that remind students to be practiced such simple behavioral practices and protect themselves suffering from diverse infectious diseases that could be hindered them from their regular schooling. So as, participants would be satisfied & be given rewards (in birr) to singers and dancers.





#### 4. Drama (by group of students)

One of the best sessions that have been presented at a hand washing day celebration would be a drama session. The drama could be attracted people's attention and communicated significant knowledge and doable behavioral practices with in a shorter period of time easily to all participants to a combination of ages ranges and occupation include sector office representatives, teachers, parents and even to a smaller child students on the significance of hand washing with soap.

The major theme of dram would be focused on the circumstances of the two households that one HH would always be strictly followed the directions given from Health extension workers and applied soon through making of latrine house and avoid open defecation, separation animals from living rooms, maternal and child care practice & other health extensions packages in collaboration with family members while the second HH family members would be goes to the opposite. As a result, a dram has shown a generated health impacts at these two households family members. So as, participant especially students could be able to acquired appropriate knowledge and practices (skills) about how and why to keep their personal and surrounding hygiene and sanitation moreover the value of hand washing with soap.

Beside of this, many students have been presented interesting poem about the importance of hand washing with soap and other related issues on hygiene and sanitation to participant





## 5. Procedure of hand washing with soap / practical

This session has lead by xx. Initially he demonstrated a proper procedures that should be adhered when we intends to wash our hands. And then, at starts he invited a honorable gusts Sister Zewditu and other representatives from sector offices to make proper hand washing with soap practices & show them to a crowd by make sure that being they have followed a correct procedures of hand washing accordingly. Hence, sister Zewditu took a lead. She made it in front of a crowd. So as she sticks procedures and accomplished a hand washing process and then followed others one by one.

Again he asked volunteers who perform a hand washing process. Large number participants would be volunteered themselves and actively participated at hand washing session in turn. As a result, participants could be gained a new skill that helps them to carry out proper hand washing in the future.



## 6. Demonstration on water filtration process by Zerihun Degebassa

This demonstration has undertaken by Zerihun Degebassa. He gave explanation on what does water filtration means? The importance of it and how to carry out water filtration practically by demonstrating in front of participants.

Initially he has shown very dirty water filled in transparent plastic bottle to participants and asked them could it be possible or not to using the water shown for drinking purposes? All participants voiced together and Saied no! Then he continued a filtration process and then he filled pure water in a clean glass. Then he asked again same question to participants they respond together yes, now water can be used for drinking purposes. Without delay, he drunks a glass of water in front of them. It was miracle to all of them, some laughs, some speaks loudly and others would be silent with amazement in a sense that how it could be happened this.

Finally many participants have been asked a lot of questions and from where they could obtain equipments of filtration and others technical matters. He gave appropriates responses and where to find them the equipments of filtration and also to other technical related issues. Here, the session has delivered to latest information to participants about water filtration & where to find it the equipments easily.





## 7. Other field activities under taken by group of students

These sessions have been undertaken at school's compound (sport field) and latrine prepared for students. Two of these activities intended to educate students to about the importance of hand washing with soap, in a bit relaxing ways **how** to carry out proper hand washing process , **when** and **where** to carry out washing with soaps

Initially the hand washing with soap actions have been performed among a small number of selected students while many other students' stands in circle and to be observed what is going on at middle. Selected students begin to make the hand washing with soap practice by using a suspended plastic bottles filled with water and soap on wooden pool. Though many students accomplished the process properly but some of them couldn't be accomplished since they may very short or they couldn't be recalled a procedure & practice it a process. Hence the water simply falls on their face and closes this has created excitement surrounded students and other participants.

An additional learning activity that has been done by selected students would be showing posters that indicate the most critical time that should be undertaken hand washing with soap. Students (Poster holders) standing in line and raised the posters by their two hands. The event has delivered very imperative messages that could be reminding students something to do easily and in a relaxed manner.

The final activities that have been held at field would be how to make a tip tap and how to use it after using a latrine. It was very attractive session and could be delivered pertinent knowledge and skills to students required materials and also how to make it a tip taps easily.

Finally the celebration ends with closing remarks made by Ato Tesfaye Gudissa Head of health office of Yaya Gullelie wereda.

